

Central Falls School District Board of Trustees
Meeting Minutes
March 25, 2014 at 6 PM
Ella Risk Library

- I. Call to Order and Roll Call- Chair Anna Cano Morales called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Present were Sonia Grace, Ana Cecilia Rosado, and Hugo Figueroa. Stephanie Gonzalez, Diosa Martinez, and Carlos Tobon were absent.
- II. Pledge
- III. Ms. Morales, Chair, acknowledged the present of a host of parents sponsored by Patricia Martinez to receive certificates of achievement for their completion of advocacy training. Each parent was called by name to receive their certificate and congratulations from the Trustees.
- IV. Approval of the meeting minutes of March 11, 2014 - A motion to approve the minutes of March 11, 2014, was made by Ms. Grace, seconded by Mr. Figueroa. Motion carried (4,0)
- V. Approval of bills – Grants and General Budget and Facility Improvements - A motion to approve the payment of bills was made by Ms. Rosado, seconded by Ms. Grace. Motion carried (4,0)
- VI. Approval of personnel actions including any new appointments, rescissions, resignations, recalls, and retirements- - There were none.
- VII. Discussion and approval of the RIC/CF Innovation Lab Transformative Partnership Agreement– Dr. Gallo led a discussion of the work of the Innovation Lab and the effort to revise and deepen the partnership agreement. The main points were highlighted and questions were answered. Dr. Gallo explained that the agreement would be signed by the President of the College and brought to the Board of Education for approval as well. A motion to approve the 2014-2015 agreement was made by Ms. Rosado, seconded by Ms. Grace. During the ensuing discussion Ms. Rosado expressed her preference for some form of a written introduction. Dr. Gallo agreed to develop an introductory memo. The Chair called for the vote and the motion carried. (4,0)
- VIII. Information about the Center for Teaching, Learning and Research was shared with the public. This was described by Dr. Gallo as a place where student teachers and graduate assistants could be housed while they work with mentoring and tutoring the students of our schools during after school hours and where during their workday they would be carrying out

- the duties involved in research or student teaching in various locations across the city.
- IX. Continued discussion of the ramifications of the full integration of special education students- Dr. Gallo spoke of the tremendous needs of our transitional students and of the district goal to see the development of another building secured and renovated so as to afford the older transitional students a chance to live independently while still under the watchful eyes and guidance of CF teachers charged with their education. This facility would also house the Social Work interns who would provide supervision during off-school hours. Dr. Gallo spoke of all students of every age taking a stronger role during their IEP meeting in advocating for themselves as they learn to be among their community peers. This is across all grade levels and schools. Dr. Gallo promised to start to visit the homes of each third grader during the 2014-2015 school year to educate families about integration and about the development of Calcutt as an elementary school. Dr. Gallo stated that her emphasis throughout the year will be educating all constituents about integration, the rights and responsibilities of every stakeholder in the school system and the impact implementation will have on the 2015-2016 school year. Dr. Gallo discussed the pipeline that reduced fearful transitions and secured a more stable school setting in the district. She committed herself to continuing the open dialogue with strong advocacy conducted as always in the public view.
- X. Discussion of the ACLU Report on Suspensions – Several Trustees mentioned how pleased they were to see the low suspension rates from CF and the fact that over identification is not a problem.
- XI. Superintendent Comments- Dr. Gallo informed the Trustees that the administration of CF decided to delay the start of the PAACR by a week in order to allow some of the technology issues to surface in other districts and reap the benefit by avoiding these issues. It was noted that all testing would still take place within the allotted time frame. On the principal search, Dr. Gallo reported that the large initial committee forwarded three finalist names to her and she was interviewing the three finalists this week in the hopes of naming an appointee at the April meeting. Dr. Gallo also thought it was noteworthy that the Ella Risk teacher leadership team was pursuing the completion of the School Reform Plan knowing they honored the memory of Maureen Azar.
- XII. Public Comment- No one signed up for public comment.

- XIII. Board Comment – The Chair noted that she would like the Trustees to consider passing a resolution opposing contract continuation. This will be further discussed and voted on at the April 8th meeting.
- XIV. Next Scheduled Meeting: April 8, 2014 at 6 PM at the Ella Risk School. The high school will present the NEASC findings.
- XV. Adjournment – At 7:30 PM motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Grace, seconded by Ms. Rosado.